

Using innovative techniques and the latest technology, our farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers provide enough food and fiber to satisfy our needs and those of millions of people around the globe. However, we too often forget that farming can be a difficult and dangerous profession.

Agricultural workers are exposed daily to the risks associated with operating powerful machinery, managing livestock, working and travelling in adverse weather conditions, and performing countless other demanding tasks, often miles away from emergency medical care. Sadly, children and young people on our farms and ranches are particularly vulnerable to these hazards and more.

The simplest safety tool we have at hand is education. By word and by example, we must teach each new generation of Americans about the critical importance of knowledge, caution, and vigilance in farming and ranching activities. Wearing protective clothing and gear, learning the safety features that manufacturers build into equipment, and staying alert to possible dangers when working with livestock, chemicals, machinery, and vehicles—all of these measures can help to ensure longer, healthier lives for America's agricultural workers.

As important as education is to the safety and well-being of our agricultural workers, we must remember that quality health care is just as critical. We must strengthen our resolve to provide the citizens of our rural areas with high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care if we are truly to meet their needs.

By setting aside a special week each year to focus on the need for improved safety and health in our Nation's agricultural industry, we demonstrate to all of our agricultural workers that we value their lives and livelihood, that we appreciate their unsurpassed productivity, and that we honor their determined spirit.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 17 through September 23, 1995, as "National Farm Safety and Health Week." I call upon government agencies, businesses, and profes-

sional associations that serve our agricultural sector to strengthen efforts to promote safety and health measures among our Nation's farm and ranch workers. I ask these workers to take advantage of educational programs and technical innovations that can help them to avoid injury and illness. Finally, I call upon the citizens of our Nation to reflect on the bounty we enjoy thanks to the labor of agricultural workers across the land. Join me in renewing our commitment to make their health and safety a national priority.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 15.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Representatives From Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and an Exchange With Reporters

September 14, 1995

Normalization Agreement

The President. First of all, let me say that I am delighted to be joined here by the Foreign Minister of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Ambassador to Greece to formally congratulate these two countries on the agreement they signed yesterday in New York, agreeing to normalize their relations.

I want to say a special word of thanks to a great American, Cy Vance, who is here, who represented the United Nations; and my Special Envoy, Matt Nimetz, for the remarkable role they played in bringing these two countries together.

As you know, the United States has had troops stationed, since I became President, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to try to help to prevent the spread of

the Balkan war. And for these two countries to work out their longstanding differences and look forward to relationships of permanent peace and commerce and accord with one another is an enormous step forward in our attempts to find a comprehensive peace in the Balkans.

Now, I also want to tell you that we have some reason to hope that we are making progress, thanks to the determination of NATO and the United Nations, in securing Bosnian Serb compliance with the conditions the U.N. and NATO have set forward for the cessation of the bombing campaign. And we are working on that, will continue to work on it hard today. And obviously, if there are any developments, we will announce them.

Bosnia

Q. Do you have Russian acquiescence to place troops around Sarajevo?

The President. Well, let me say, first of all, we are working on the details of the agreement. When they are worked out we will then say what they are and answer all the questions.

Q. But sir, is there an agreement for the Serbs to pull their artillery from the positions around Sarajevo?

The President. That is what we are attempting to secure at this moment. We are working through that. There's been some progress in the last—there's been some reason to hope for progress in the last several hours, beginning last night our time. But we're not prepared to make a final announcement yet. When we are, we will, and we'll answer all the questions.

Medicare

Q. The Speaker of the House today said that the Democratic position on Medicare is to scare 85-year-olds, and he called the party "morally bankrupt."

The President. Well, you know, I think it's questionable to use words like "morally bankrupt," but let's look at the facts. For 2 years, I said the Medicare Trust Fund was in trouble, and Mr. Gingrich and others mocked me and denied that it was in trouble. All by ourselves, with no help from them, we added 3 years to the life of the Trust Fund. We have proposed legislation which

would add 10 years to the life of the Trust Fund and will get Medicare out of trouble.

I don't want to use a term like "morally bankrupt," but I think it is morally questionable at least to propose vast Medicare cuts which would increase the cost of Medicare to elderly people living on under \$24,000 a year and claim that it's going to the Trust Fund when they know not one red cent of the money being paid by seniors will go to the Trust Fund. It will go to fund a tax cut that is too big. And they should tell the truth to the American people that they want to charge the providers more money and put that in the Trust Fund. They want to charge the elderly people of this country more money and put that into the tax cut.

Now, that is the truth. And if we're going to talk about what morality requires, morality requires them to tell the truth to the American people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Following his remarks, the President met with Greek Ambassador to the United States Loukas Tsilas and Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 6823—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 1995 *September 14, 1995*

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America has always drawn strength from the extraordinary diversity of its people. The earliest settlers came to this great land seeking opportunity, bringing with them an abundant wealth of traditions from countries the world over. Thus the vibrant Hispanic culture has long been entwined with our Nation's heritage, and people of Latin American and Spanish ancestry have infused our national life with energy and vision. In the arts, the sciences, the business world, academia, and government, Hispanic Americans have added immeasurably to our progress.

Later this month, I will proudly bestow on the late Willie Velasquez our Nation's highest